

ABSTRACT

CARR-304

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 68(71)

Littlestown, Pennsylvania vicinity

Public/private

1767 (reset 1902)

Milestone No. 68(71) is an original monument of 1767 at its original site, marking Mason and Dixon's 68th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, longest of their survey lines run and marked during their 1763-68 commission to define the boundary between the English provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania. As with all original West Line monuments, this milestone was quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, measuring about 12" square by about 4 1/2' long, with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. It is embellished with vertical fluting and horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, with a low pyramidal top formed by fluted planes rising about 2" to a centered apex. The distinguishing features are the Toman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk into a plain shallow circle panel near the top. Reset in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, No. 68(71) has since stood about 12" above ground, remains close to 12" square, is in very good condition, unaltered and comparatively protected. On the federal and state levels, it is significant primarily as one of the series of 135 original monuments still standing along the West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Locally, as one of 18 original monuments marking the present Carroll/Adams-York county boundary (3 crowstones, 15 milestones), it is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CARR-304

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name) *

BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)
historic (Mason and Dixon's) West Line, 68th Mile Stone

* and/or common Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 68 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 71)

2. Location

street & number off west side of MD 97/PA 97 ☒ not for publication

city, town Littlestown ☒ vicinity of congressional district MD: 6 / PA: 19

state Pennsylvania county MD: Carroll / PA: Adams

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status N/A | Present Use |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: state boundary marker |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

(monument only; see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)
name State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

N/A (see surrounding property ownership list)
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

(also see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)
title Carroll County Historic Sites Inventory

date CARR-304 entered 1/80 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-304

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Milestone No. 68(71) marks Mason and Dixon's 68th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767; in very good condition; unaltered; firmly set, having been reset in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary; and is in its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1765; and comparatively protected from farm machinery and vandalism.

The area here is generally rolling, open farmland, sparsely settled. It is within Election District 3 of Carroll County, MD, Germany Township of Adams County, PA; about 2 miles southeast of the town of Littlestown, PA; about 2 miles ^{the village of} northwest of Silver Run, MD; in an open unfenced farm-field berm about 700' equidistant from the west side of MD 97 and south side of Georgetown Road (LR-0156); opposite the fourth telephone pole west from MD97. It can be seen from both roads when vegetation is dormant, but is far enough away from the roads that it is inconspicuous and apparently not vandalized.

As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, this milestone was quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, measuring about 12" square by about 4½' long, with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. It is embellished with vertical fluting and horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, with a low pyramidal top formed by fluted planes rising about 2" to a centered apex. The distinguishing features are the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk into a plain shallow circle panel close to the top. ^{In 1902,} during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey, No. 68(71) was reset to stand about 1' above ground, and surrounded below ground by a concrete collar to secure it in place. It remains about 12" square and close to 12" above this foundation; nearly all embellishments are clear and intact, ~~although~~ the top is weatherworn and all edges and top corners are chipped. The concrete foundation has been exposed on the north side from the wash from the upper field on the south to the lower-level north field, a drop that ^{otherwise} ~~has~~ protected the monument ^{damage by} from farm machinery.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

8. Significance

Survey No.

CARR-304

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) boundary surveying |

Specific dates 1767 (reset 1902) Builder/Architect Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☒ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Milestone No. 68(71) is significant on the federal and state levels primarily as one of a series of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments still standing along their 230.228-mile West Line, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1765 and the monument set in 1767, where it remains in very good condition, unaltered, at its original site, although reset more securely in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, it is one of 18 original monuments (15 milestones, 3 crownstones) still marking the present Carroll/York-Adams county boundary, and is significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-304

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acreQuadrangle name Littlestown (Maryland-Pennsylvania)Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic)
do NOT complete UTM referencesA

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Verbal boundary description and justification

N/A

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Maryland code county Carroll code state Pennsylvania code county Adams code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason & Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)organization Maryland Historical Trust and
Maryland Geological Surveydate 4/19/80 (site surveyed)street & number 14308 Mount Avenuetelephone 301/472-2128city or town Phoenixstate Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

CARD 304

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE 68(71)

VIEW WEST TOWARD STONE

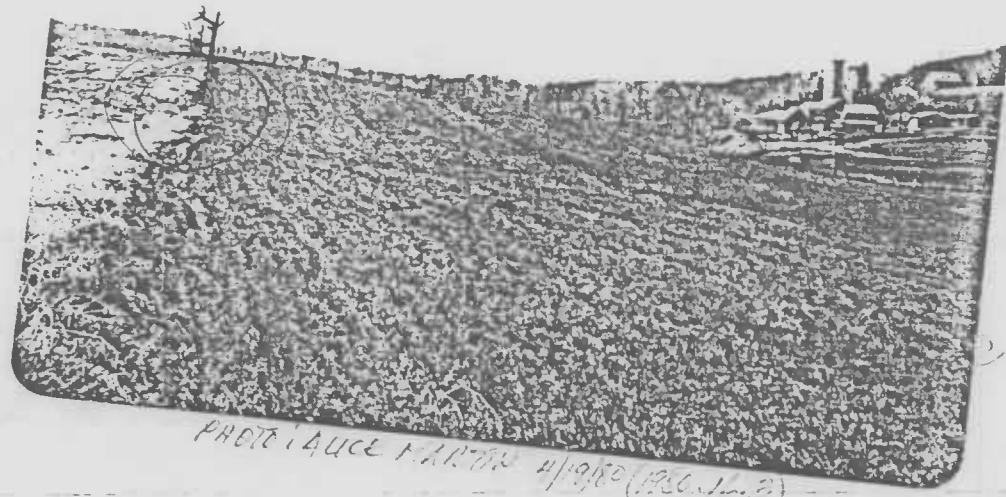


PHOTO ALICE MARTIN 4/19/50 (REC. 16-2)

VIEW EAST TOWARD STONE & RT. 91

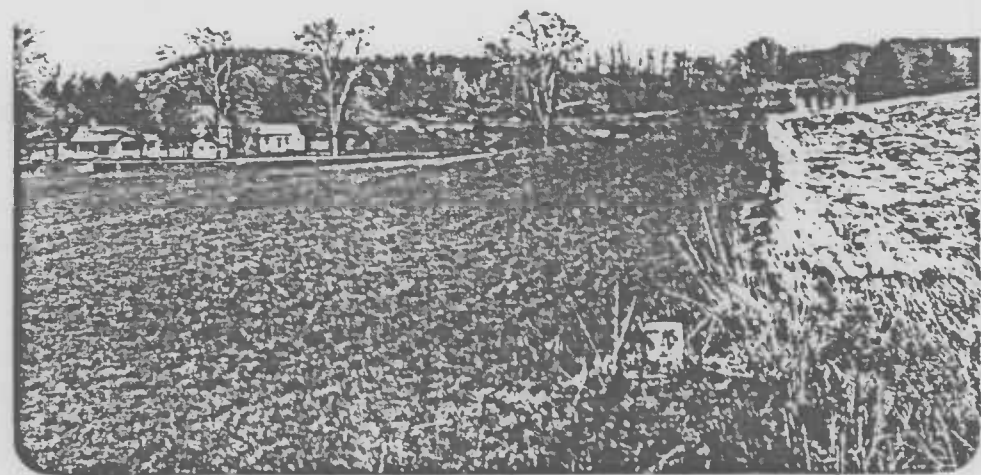


PHOTO ALICE MARTIN 4/19/50 (REC. 16-2)

VIEW WEST TOWARD STONE
 MILESTONE 68(71)
 MASON & DIXON WEST LINE
 CARROLL COUNTY 68(71)

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 68(71)
 NORTH (PA) & WEST SIDES
 STONE 1 & 2 ROAD MARKERS
 PHOTO ALICE MARTIN 4/19/50 (REC. 16-2)

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 68(71)



MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE NO. 68 (71), ORIGINAL (1767)
 NORTH (P) & WEST FACES
 SHOWING EROSION AROUND FOUNDATION

PHOTO ALICE MARTIN 4/19/80 (1980 16 5)



MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 6P (71), ORIGINAL (1767)

SOUTH (N) & EAST FACES

OFF WYS MD 97, LITTLESTOWN, PA VICINITY

CARROLL CO, MD / ADAMS CO, PA

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN; 4/19/80 (1980-16-7)